



**STATEMENT OF PROCEEDINGS FOR THE
REGULAR MEETING OF THE
SYBIL BRAND COMMISSION FOR INSTITUTIONAL
INSPECTIONS
KENNETH HAHN HALL OF ADMINISTRATION
500 WEST TEMPLE STREET, ROOM 372
LOS ANGELES, CA 90012
<http://sbc.lacounty.gov>**

Wednesday, August 21, 2013

10:00 AM

AUDIO LINK FOR THE ENTIRE MEETING. (13-3912)

Attachments: [AUDIO](#)

Present: Chairperson Eleanor R. Montañó, Vice Chairperson Frank S. Bacio, Commissioner Barbara Bigby, Commissioner Donald S. Andrews and Commissioner Susan Burton

Excused: Commissioner Cheryl Grills Ph.D. and Commissioner Anne S. Hill

Call to Order. (13-3612)

Chairperson Montañó called the meeting to order at 9:58 a.m.

Chairperson Montañó led in the Pledge of Allegiance, followed by a moment of silence. Commissioner Burton joined the meeting at 10:10 a.m.

I. ADMINISTRATIVE MATTER

1. Approval of the August 14, 2013 Minutes. (13-3810)

On motion of Commissioner Donald Andrews seconded by Commissioner Barbara Bigby and unanimously carried, the minutes of August 14, 2013 were approved.

Attachments: [SUPPORTING DOCUMENT](#)

II. REPORTS

2. Department Representatives Reports for August 21, 2013.
 - Department of Auditor-Controller
 - Monthly Report

- Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS)
 - Monthly Report
 - Follow-up report regarding the extracurricular activities that are being offered to the youth in the group homes (Continued from 7/17/13).
 - Discussion regarding the unsatisfactory inspection findings at Children Are Our Future Group Home (West Hills) on July 29, 2013.
- Probation Department
 - Monthly Report
 - Discussion regarding the extracurricular activities that are being offered to youth at the group homes (Continued from 7/17/13).
- Department of Mental Health
 - Monthly Report
 - Discussion regarding the Department of Mental Health's role in caring for the inmates.
- Internal Services Department
 - Monthly Report
 - Follow-up report regarding the inspection and findings of the Inglewood Juvenile Courthouse (Continued from 7/17/13).
- Sheriff's Department
 - Monthly Report
 - Discussion regarding the unsatisfactory inspection findings at the Century Regional Detention Facility (CRDF) on July 18, 2013.
 - Follow-up report regarding the unsatisfactory inspection findings at the Inglewood Courthouse (Continued from 7/17/13). (13-3583)

DEPARTMENT OF AUDITOR-CONTROLLER'S (AC)

There was no report given.

MENTAL HEALTH DEPARTMENT (MHD)

Ms. Zoe Trachtenberg, Program Manager, Countywide Children's Case Management Programs, Mental Health Department (MHD), reported that her office received a request from the Commission for a MHD

representative familiar with the jail programs to discuss the role in caring for mental health inmates.

Ms. Trachtenberg further reported that a representative, Dr. Stephen Shea or Dr. Michael Maloney, will attend the September 18, 2013 Business Meeting to discuss the mental health care of incarcerated women and men in Los Angeles County jails.

PROBATION DEPARTMENT (PD)

Ms. Pamela Pease, Placement Permanency & Quality Assurance, PD, reported on the status of AWOLs for the month of July 2013 as follows:

- **182 Absent Without Leave (AWOL)**
 - 130 - Youth involved
 - 35 - Repeat offenders
 - 58 - Remain AWOL
 - 34 - Returned to Group Home
 - 28 - Juvenile hall
 - 1 - Home on probation
 - 9 - Camp orders
- **Outstanding AWOLs from previous months and arrests in July 2013**
 - 8 - Youth were arrested/detained
 - 2 - Juvenile hall
 - 1 - Returned to Group Home
 - 2 - Camp orders
 - 2 - Home on probation
 - 1 - AWOLed again

The following referrals were reported for July 2013:

- **8 – Child Abuse Referrals**
 - 1 - Substantiated
 - 5 – Unfounded
 - 1 – Inconclusive
 - 1 - Pending

Ms. Lisa Campbell-Motten, Director of Placement Permanency & Quality Assurance (PD), reported that the Board of Supervisors (BOS) ordered the Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS) to expand staffing to include one additional unit to supplement investigations to

State Licensed Foster Homes and Group Homes along with broadening the scope of out of home care investigations. She indicated that based on the recent DCFS Board order, the Probation Department has intensified the monitoring and review of the group homes.

In response to Commissioner Bigby's question, Ms. Rhonda David-Shirley, Children Services Administrator III, Out of Home Care Management Division, DCFS, stated that she will investigate the allegations that Moore's Cottage has a six grade youth who did not receive his initial clothing allowance to purchase school clothes and will provide the Commission a report of her findings.

Ms. Campbell-Motten also reported that Chairperson Montañó and Commissioner Andrew's finding at Children Are Our Future (West Hills) were substantiated and the Probation Department has correspondingly issued a Corrective Action Plan. She also mentioned that West Hills had complied with most of the Commission's requests prior to the Probation Department's inspection.

DEPARTMENT OF CHILDREN AND FAMILY SERVICES (DCFS)

Ms. Rhonda David-Shirley, DCFS, reported the following:

➤ **16 Closed referrals from July 17 – August 20, 2013**

- **1 - Physical Abuse**
 - **1 - Evaluated out**
- **1 - Sexual Abuse**
 - **1 – Unfounded**
- **3 Emotional Abuse**
 - **2 - Unfounded**
 - **1 – Inconclusive**
- **11 - General Neglect**
 - **3 - Unfounded**
 - **3 - Evaluated out**
 - **4 - Inconclusive**
 - **1 - Substantiated**

➤ **17 Referrals**

- **5 - Sexual abuse**
- **6 - Physical abuse**

- **6 - General neglect**

- **Absent Without Leave (AWOL):**

- **From July 17 31, 2013**
 - **589 AWOLs**
- **From August 1 20, 2013**
 - **324 AWOLs**

Ms. Rhonda David-Shirley, DCFS, reported that DCFS provided Needs and Services Plan (NSP) training to the group homes providers during the month of July 2013 and was discussed with the social worker the importance of teamwork and signing the NSPs. She also provided an overview of the discussion held at the training.

In response to Commissioner Andrews' questions regarding West Hills, Ms. David-Shirley will investigate his findings and report back at the next Business Meeting.

INTERNAL SERVICES DEPARTMENT (ISD)

Brian Lear, Building Crafts Superintendent, (ISD), reported that the Commission findings at Inglewood Juvenile Courthouse were unfounded. Commissioner Burton conducted the inspection in Inglewood and reported what she detected during her inspection. Mr. Lear was provided a copy of the report of the non-satisfactory findings during the June 14, 2013 inspection and he offered to re-inspect the facility and report back at the next Business Meeting.

SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT (SD)

Recently promoted Captain Maria Gutierrez, Court Services, SD, announced that the new Long Beach Courthouse move-in date is September 9, 2013 and the grand opening is scheduled for November 14, 2013. Lieutenant Brent Becker, Court Services, SD, distributed a memo following-up on the non-satisfactory report written by Commissioners Burton and Grills pertaining to the Inglewood Adult Courthouse (IAC). Lt. Becker stated the issues in the report have been repaired/replaced. Commissioner Burton requested Court Services staff to consider moving IJC's size appropriate turnout gear that is kept across the street to more accessible location in the IJC facility.

Recently promoted Commander Ralph Ornelas, Peter Pitchess Detention Center, SD, proudly reported that the use of forces in Los Angeles County jails has significantly decreased by deputies from January 2013 to present in comparison with last year's numbers. He also reported that the Central Regional Detention Facility, the Sheriff's Department, and the Fire Department will be recommending to the Board of Supervisors at the September 3, 2013 meeting, housing and training for inmates at the fire camps. For inmates that qualify for this program will be housed at the fire camp and can receive 1½ day credit for 1 day of service and trained inmates will receive 2 days credit for 1 day of service. In addition, inmates that are required to serve a full sentence are allowed housing at the fire camps which will free beds in local detention facilities.

3. Chairperson's Report on various items for August 21, 2013. (13-3811)

Chairperson Montaña shared the following Newspaper Articles:

➤ Los Angeles Times:

- Cheaper Inmate Phone Calls (August 15, 2013)
- Gardena Mayor to Run For Sheriff (August 15, 2013)
- Garcetti Shakes Up Polive Panel (August 15, 2013)
- Baca Gains Rivals For Reelection (August 15, 2013)
- Ousted Undersheriff to Run Against Former Boss Baca (August 16, 2013)
- Day Care Had Filth Violations (August 17, 2013)

➤ Daily Breeze:

- Abuse (August 1, 2013)
- Former No. 2 Goes For Top Job (August 16, 2013)
- Confusion Harms Children's Welfare (August 16, 2013)

Attachments: [SUPPORTING DOCUMENT](#)

4. Treasurer's Report for August 21, 2013. (13-3817)

Vice Chairperson Bacio reported that as of August 21, 2013 the current bank statement balance of the Commission's Charitable Fund remains at \$625.96.

5. Staff Report on Correspondence Received, and Department Representative Reports for August 21, 2013. (13-3396)

As a follow up to the Commission's interest to attend the Blue Ribbon Commission on Child Protection (BRCCP) meeting and other gatherings possibly as a group, staff distributed to the Commissioners an email response from County Counsel regarding Brown Act regulations. Ms. Bolaji Famuyiwa, Staff, Commission Services, reported that the Sybil Brand Commission (Commission) would be in violation the Brown Act if they were to conduct a jail inspection with four or more members unless a special meeting agenda is posted at the location allowing for public comment and the public to attend the inspection. She further stated that the Commission may attend a BRCCP meeting as a group without violating the Brown Act, as long as the majority of the members do not discuss among themselves any business that is within the subject matter jurisdiction of the Commission.

6. Review of Group Home Compliance Monitoring Audit Reports presented on August 21, 2013. (13-3812)

➤ **In Compliance:**

- **Chairperson Montaña and Commissioner Andrews visited Optimist Boy's Home, Page 29, #1, on August 6, 2013.**
- **Chairperson Montaña and Commissioner Andrews visited Vista Del Mar Group Home, Page 40, #4, on August 19, 2013.**
- **Chairperson Montaña and Commissioner Andrews visited Vista Del Mar Community Treatment Facility, Page 41, #3, on August 19, 2013.**
- **Commissioner Burton visited Sand Hill Group Home, Page 37, #1, on August 20, 2013.**
- **Commissioner Bigby visited Rosemary Children's Service, Page 35, #4, on August 20, 2013.**

➤ **Not Home:**

- **Commissioner Bigby visited Rosemary Children's Service, Page 35, #4, on July 9, 2013 and reported no one was at home.**
- **Commissioner Bigby visited Rosemary Children's Service, Page 35, #4, on August 15, 2013 and reported no one was at home.**

7. Commissioners' Reports on Group Home and/or Detention Facilities

Inspections from August 15, 2013 to August 20, 2013. (13-3813)

During the reporting period, the following Group Homes/Facilities were reported as being in satisfactory condition:

- **Vice Chairperson Bacio visited Heritage Group Home, Page 20, #2, on August 20, 2013.**

During the reporting period, the following Group Home was visited but not inspected:

- **Chairperson Montaña and Commissioner Andrews visited Children's Home of Southern California, Page 7, #4, on August 20, 2013 and reported that no one was home.**

III. MISCELLANEOUS

Matters Not Posted

8. Matters not on the posted agenda, to be discussed and (if requested) referred to staff or placed on the agenda for action at a future meeting, or matters requiring immediate action because of an emergency situation or where the need to take action came to the attention of the Committee subsequent to the posting of the agenda. (13-3814)

There were no matters presented for a future agenda.

Public Comment

9. Opportunity for members of the public to address the Commission on items of interest that are within the jurisdiction of the Commission. (13-3815)

There were no members of the public present to address the Commission.

Adjournment

10. Adjournment for the meeting of August 21, 2013. (13-3816)

There being no further business, Chairperson Montaña adjourned the meeting of August 21, 2013 at 12:05 p.m.